

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC MEETING: Tuesday December 15, 2009 at the Richmond County YMCA, 13207 History Land Highway, Warsaw, VA 22572. An afternoon public meeting will be held from 2-4pm and the evening public meeting from 6-8pm.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the completion of a study to restore water quality for a shellfish growing area, a public comment opportunity, and two public meetings.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meetings on a study to restore water quality for shellfish growing areas along the Upper Rappahannock River near Tappahannock, Piscataway Creek, Jugs Creek, Little Carter Creek, Garret's Marina, and Mark Haven Beach located in Essex, Richmond, and portions of Northumberland and Westmoreland Counties.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the shellfish growing waters of these waterbodies and their tributaries. These streams are impaired for failure to meet the designated use of shellfish consumption because of bacterial water quality standard violations.

Stream	Counties Within Watershed	Area (miles ²)	Impairment
Upper Rappahannock River, Piscataway Creek, Little Carter Creek, Jugs Creek	Essex, Richmond, Westmoreland, Northumberland	9.73	Shellfish Use (Fecal Coliform) bacteria
Mark Haven Beach	Essex	0.014	
Garret's Marina	Essex	0.029	

The study reports the status of the Creeks via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Health - Division of Shellfish Sanitation, shellfish area condemnations and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount. The draft report for the study will be available on 12/15/09 at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/TMDLDataSearch/DraftReports.jsp>.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by

DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on January 14, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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